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30 January 2015

65,000 Emails Released by PG&E in Historic Day for Transparency – Link to Emails Below

San Bruno's Efforts to Shed Light on Public Corruption Led to Today's Release of Emails Possibly Revealing More Illegal PG&E-CPUC Contact

San Francisco— In a resounding victory for the City of San Bruno, the citizens of California, and advocates for transparency in government, the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. -- under the orders of the California Public Utilities Commission -- made public the 65,000 emails, totaling more than 120,000 documents, that may demonstrate additional illegal contact between the CPUC and PG&E.

The emails can be downloaded in their entirety by following this link on the CPUC's website.

Months after uncovering the largest public corruption scandal in modern California history, the City of San Bruno once again pushed to bring the 65,000 emails that PG&E self-reported to light by filing legal papers in December to compel PG&E to turn over the records. Earlier this month,

CPUC Administrative Law Judge Amy Yip-Kikugawa ordered that PG&E turn over the emails by a Jan. 30 deadline.

"Today marks a significant victory in the City of San Bruno's tireless efforts to expose corruption at PG&E and the CPUC and to promote transparency for the safety and benefit of all citizens," said San Bruno Mayor Jim Ruane, adding that the city will provide comment pending review of the 121,000 records that were provided via hard drive and later posted on the CPUC's website on Friday.

"San Bruno's fight for justice originally brought to light a shocking and illegal relationship between the CPUC and PG&E," Ruane said. "The City's efforts have now culminated in PG&E fighting – and losing — the battle to keep all 65,000 emails out of the public eye. We look forward to reviewing these records and uncovering the full extent of corruption that we hope will no longer jeopardize public safety."

In February 2014, San Bruno filed a lawsuit in Superior Court to compel the CPUC to comply with four unfilled records requests dating back more than 10 months.

That lawsuit resulted in the CPUC handing over more than 7,000 pages of communications that exposed inappropriate emails between CPUC Commissioners and PG&E executives and ultimately led to the additional disclosure of illegal communication between the state agency and utility, forcing the resignation and recusal of CPUC President Michael Peevey and the recusal of Mike Florio from the PG&E San Bruno explosion and fire penalty case.

San Bruno's lawsuit and subsequent disclosure also led PG&E to admit that it knew of additional illegal contact, resulting in its "self-reporting" of internal emails and the termination of three of its top executives.

The U.S. Attorney's office and the California Attorney General's office have since launched separate investigations into the CPUC-PG&E scandal. Earlier this week the AG's office searched the homes of Peevey and Brian Cherry, one of the PG&E executives who was terminated.

Ruane said as the City and public scrutinizes the contents of the soon-to-be-released records, he reiterated his call for an Independent monitor at the CPUC to deliver a critical watchdog function that has been woefully neglected by current CPUC leadership. Such a monitor would help restore public trust and confidence in a damaged agency.

"Eight San Bruno citizens died on that horrible night in September 2010 – innocent victims of the same pattern of collusion and deception that we have fought hard to eradicate at PG&E and the CPUC," Ruane said. "Now is the time for actual accountability, for meaningful reform of

both PG&E and the CPUC and for those responsible for the public's safety to abandon the business as usual mentality that contributed to disaster so that what happened in San Bruno never happens again."